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Approved For Release 2000/08/30 : CIA-RDP80T01719R000400080003-0



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

22 August 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Henry A. Kissinger
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

SUBJECT : Interdiction Program Analysis

1. In response to your request made during our 9 August conversation, my associates have taken a quiet, comprehensive look at the current U.S. interdiction effort. Our findings and conclusions are set forth in the attached memorandum, written and intended for your eyes only.

2. Also attached, again per your request, is a second memorandum, summarizing our thoughts on possible modifications in the interdiction program that might enhance its overall impact. We caution, however, that even if the program's impact is appreciably improved, there are clear limitations on what even an optimum interdiction program can realistically be expected to achieve. The record of World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam since 1965 strongly suggests that bombing alone is unlikely to transcend the realm of severe harassment and achieve true interdiction in the sense of stopping the movement of supplies a determined, resourceful enemy deems essential and is willing to pay almost any price to move. This second memorandum suggesting possible improvements in the interdiction effort was prepared exclusively for you and yours is the only copy outside of my office.

Richard Helms
Director

Attachments

TS No. 203097/a/72

TS No. 203097/b/72

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